

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

1. (Currently Amended) A drive circuit for driving a power semiconductor device, said circuit comprising:

control means for controlling switching of the power semiconductor device according to a turn-on instruction or turn-off instruction sent to the power semiconductor device from outside said drive circuit;

controllable variable value detection means for detecting value of an electrical variable controlled by said control means and that is applied to a control terminal of the power semiconductor device during a ~~predetermined~~ time period when said control means receives a turn-on instruction; and

abnormality detection means for monitoring the ~~controllable~~ value detected by said controllable variable value detection means to detect occurrence of an abnormality in the power semiconductor device.

2. (Currently Amended) The drive circuit according to Claim 1, wherein said controllable variable value detection means detects, as the value of the electrical variable ~~controlled by said control means~~, one of a control voltage that appears at ~~a~~ the control terminal of the power semiconductor device, a current that flows ~~in~~ into the control terminal of the power semiconductor device, and quantity of charge supplied to the control terminal of the power semiconductor device.

3. (Currently Amended) The drive circuit according to Claim 1, wherein said controllable variable value detection means detects the value of the electrical variable controlled by said control means and that is applied to the control terminal of the power semiconductor device during a transition time period that begins ~~immediately after~~ when said control means ~~has received~~ receives a turn-on instruction and ends before a control voltage that appears at ~~a~~ the control terminal of the power semiconductor device reaches, in absence of an abnormality in the power semiconductor device, a predetermined voltage value.

4 (Currently Amended) The drive circuit according to Claim 1, wherein said controllable variable value detection means detects the value of the electrical variable controlled by said control means and that is applied to the control terminal of the power semiconductor device during a transition time period that begins at expiration of a

~~predetermined~~ time interval after said control means has received a turn-on instruction and ends before a control voltage that appears at ~~a~~ the control terminal of the power semiconductor device reaches, in absence of an abnormality in the power semiconductor device, a predetermined voltage value.

5. (Previously Presented) The drive circuit according to Claim 1, wherein, when said abnormality detection means detects occurrence of an abnormality, said control means causes the power semiconductor device to make a transition to an off state.

6. (Previously Presented) The drive circuit according to Claim 5, wherein, when said abnormality detection means detects the occurrence of an abnormality, said control means causes the power semiconductor device to make a transition to an off state at a lower speed than the speed at which said control means causes the power semiconductor device to make a transition to an off state according to a turn-off instruction.

7 (Currently Amended) A drive circuit for driving a power semiconductor device, said circuit comprising:

control means for controlling switching of the power semiconductor device according to a turn-on instruction or turn-off instruction sent to the power semiconductor device from outside said drive circuit;

controllable variable value detection means for detecting value of an electrical variable controlled by said control means and that is applied to a control terminal of the power semiconductor device; and

abnormality detection means for monitoring the value of the electrical variable detected by said controllable variable value detection means to detect occurrence of an abnormality in the power semiconductor device, and for validating detection of the occurrence of an abnormality, only during a ~~predetermined~~ time period after said control means has received a turn-on instruction.